**Lot of Girl Child in Bihar**

1587. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the girl child is the most neglected lot in Bihar and is educationally more backward in comparison to other States resulting in a very low status of girl child in the society:

(b) whether it is a fact that in a number of Districts in Bihar the average level of female literacy is lower than 20 percent and in some Districts it is even lower than 15 percent: if so, what are the details thereof: and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to improve the lot of girl child and provide education to them in the State of Bihar during ihe Eighth Five Year Plan ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (XUMARI SELJA): (a) According to 1951 census, female literacy rate in Bihar is 22.89% as against the national average of 39.29%.

(b) The female literacy level is between 15% to 20% in 12 districts and below 15% in 6 districts in Bihar. The details are given in the Statement (sse below).

(c) A number of steps have been taken by the Government to increase female literacy rate and to achieve Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE) with stress on girls' education. In the State of Bihar, the National Literacy Mission (NLM) has approved Total Literacy Campaigns (TLCs) proposals for 8 districts. The Government of Bihar have been advised that NLM is willing to fund as many as districts as the State Government would come forward with, within the parameters of the TLCs. Apart from the above, an UNICEF assisted Basic Education Project has been launched in Bihar from 1991-92. The project lays special emphasis on the education of the disadvantaged groups such as SCs/STs and the women. So far 7 districts have been covered under the project.

**Statement**

*Female Literacy Rates 1991 Census*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Between 15% to 20% | | |
| 1. | Khagaria | 19.79 |
| 2. | Deoghar | 19.74 |
| 3. | Godda | 18.00 |
| 4. | Dumka | 17.91 |
| 5. | Gopaljanj | 17.75 |
| 6. | Giridih | 17.65 |
| 7. | Katihar | 16.88 |
| 8. | Purnia | 16.80 |
| 9. | Madhubani | 16.75 |
| 10. | Sahibganj | 16.32 |
| 11. | Palamu | 16.15 |
| 12. | Sitamarhi | 15.31 |
| Below 15% | | |
| 13. | Saharsa | 14.70 |
| 14. | Madhepura | 14.41 |
| 15. | Paschim Champaram | 14.41 |
| 16. | Araria | 14.01 |
| 17. | Purba Champaram | 13.69 |
| 18. | Kishanganj | 10.38 |

**Uncovered Schools in Bihar and West Bengal**

1588. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Bihar and West bengal account for about 70 per cent of the total uncovered schools in the country under the 'Operation Blackboard" launched by Government in 1987:

(b) if so, what are the details thereof: and

(c) what action Government propose to take to cover all the schools in Bihar and West Itengal under Operation Blackboard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE): (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) Bihar & West Bengal account for about 90% of the total uncovered schools in the country under the scheme of Operation Blackboard lauched by Government in 1987. The Number of uncovered schools in Bihar & West Bengal as on 31st March, 1993 are as below:—

| State | No. of uncovered schools |
|---|---|
| Bihar | 18368 |
| West Bengal | 29873 |

(c) The Department of Education is persuading the State Govts, of Bihar & West Bengal to complete the entire backlog during the current year.